



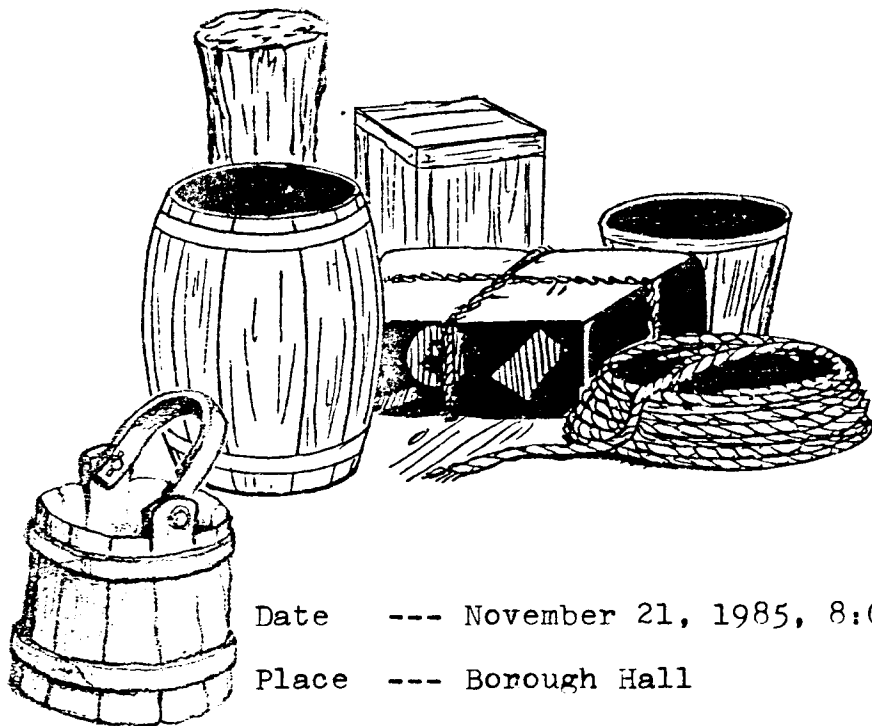
THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF
HADDONFIELD

VOLUME 29, NO.4

343 King's Highway East

NOVEMBER 1985

Historical Society
Haddonfield, NJ
Where History
Comes Alive!



Date --- November 21, 1985, 8:00 p.m.

Place --- Borough Hall

Speaker--- Claire Driscoll

The general meeting of The Historical Society of Haddonfield Thursday, November 21, at 8:00 p.m., will have one of its own as a speaker. Claire Driscoll Will speak on "Cooperage" - the trade of making casks and barrels from staves and hoops.

The cooper played an important role in early years due to the necessity for tight barrels for storage of food and liquids and also for the transportation of foodstuffs. In addition to a short film, Claire will demonstrate many of the tools from our own Society collection which were used in shaping the lathes and hoops. Claire is active in the "History Comes Alive" program of the Society and brings lots of enthusiasm to her presentation and we know it will not only be informative but of great interest.

Do join us for an interesting and enjoyable evening.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Historical Society of Haddonfield recently received a letter from a couple about to move into Haddonfield; they were seeking some information about their new home. The one line of their letter that particularly struck me was "I am not familiar with the function of a historical society in a community but am anxious to learn."

I suspect most people don't know what a historical society does or is supposed to do. My suspicions were confirmed when Acquisitions Chairman Caroline Moody and I recently talked to a local service club. We presented a sampling of the treasures of our library and museum collection and, I hope, conveyed the importance and reasons the items were being preserved. The reaction of many people who had heard the talk was that they had no idea of the diversity of the Society's collection.

From its earliest days, the object of the Historical Society of Haddonfield has remained virtually unchanged. The earliest Constitution states that our object is "the study and dissemination of the History of the Borough of Haddonfield, in the County of Camden and the State of New Jersey; the study of organizations, societies, families, individuals and events; the collection & preservation of articles of historic value; the establishment and maintenance of a historical library; and the publication, from time to time, of such historical information as may be deemed expedient."

I think the object and function of the Historical Society remains the same today. It is a considerable, but vitally important, challenge to meet.

Douglas B. Rauschenberger

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held on December 7, 1985, at Greenfield Hall. The members of the committee have made beautiful tree skirts, large and small; aprons and many other lovely gifts will be on sale. The usual boxwood balls, which the Atkinsons make so skillfully, as well as a plentiful supply of holly and red and white poinsettias will also be available.

Our young women are again in charge of the Baked Goods. Packages of our famous Bean Soup Mix as well as breads, cakes, cookies, preserves and candies will be the offering of the day.

The newly elected officers of the Women's Committee are:

Chairman - Dorothy Sherred
Vice-Chairman - Mary Jane Freedly
Recording-Secretary - Sylvia Long
Corresponding-Secretary - Bert Corrington
Treasurer - Mary Carll

Come and bring your friends to the Bazaar on DECEMBER 7.

Mrs. Richard Sherred
Chairman

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee submits the following candidates for election at the Annual Meeting on November 21:

Officers

Term 1985 - 1987

Second Vice-President-Leonard Heck
Third Vice-President-Vivian Stauder
Recording-Secretary-Helen Hubbard

Trustees

Term 1985 - 1988

Dorothy Whitten
Al Kernagus

Larry Test
Harry Kaufmann

Harry Atkinson

Sylvia Long
Chairman

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Samuel N. Rhoads

Within the confines of the library of the Historical Society of Haddonfield are numerous articles written by Samuel N. Rhoads. Most of these are involved with historical information, in particular that of the Quakress, Elizabeth Haddon. Since he was a collateral relative of hers, he was quite interested in her life and times, and apparently wanted to write the story of her life.

However, many people are unaware that he also was known as the village scientist. Since he was basically a farmer, he was able to get away to various areas of the world and do scientific collecting, much of it for the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

He collected birds and small mammals, and when he reached a limit in his beloved New Jersey he went on to the mountains of Pennsylvania, the southern states, and as far afield as Mexico, California, South American and Western Canada. He would then return and classify his specimens and they would be added to the Academy's collections. Since he was so interested in nature, he developed an interest in gardening and had a beautiful indoor as well as outdoor garden in his home in Haddonfield. Many of the rare plants he had acquired by him on his travels.

In later life he decided that he so loved both history and nature that he opened a Philadelphia book shop specializing in these two subjects. A number of books in the collection of the Historical Society of Haddonfield have notes in them as to where they were acquired by him.

Samuel N. Rhoads - Haddonfield resident, author, historian and naturalist.

Betty Lyons
Research Committee

REMEMBER*****

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - DECEMBER 7.

"DR. RUSH'S DIRECTIONS"(continued)

The prescription is an excellent example of the philosophy of medicine practiced by Dr. Rush at the time. Many of Dr. Rush's instructions make as much sense today as they did in 1805. His advice to eat plenty of fruits and vegetables and not much meat or fish is the current medical vogue today, 180 years later. Other suggestions, such as "lose a few ounces of blood from your arm", are absolutely ridiculous to us today, but were the foundation of Dr. Rush's theory of illness. It was in fact his practice of "bleeding" his patients excessively that led to a major falling out between Dr. Rush and the rest of the Philadelphia medical establishment in 1793. Benjamin Rush believed that all illness, both physical and mental, arose from a predisposing debility which led to excessive action or convulsion of the blood vessels and that to relieve the tension causing these "convulsions" one needed to reduce the volume of blood in the body by bloodletting.

Unfortunately, by the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 this theory had been abandoned by most medical practitioners both here and in England and Scotland where Rush had originally been educated. Dr. Rush was, however, a very stubborn and dogmatic individual and to the day of his death never accepted that bloodletting was not beneficial in the treatment of virtually all diseases.

Dr. Rush's adherence in this philosophy, however, did not cause him to lose all his patients as one might have expected. In 1805, the year of this prescription, he had an extremely large private practice. He also held the Professorship of the Institute of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, becoming dean of that medical school in 1808.

In addition to having been a leading physician and medical educator in 1805, Dr. Rush was famous for his work with and devotion to the mentally ill. He was at this time in charge of a new wing of the Pennsylvania Hospital which had been to house those mentally deranged individuals previously housed in the cellar of that noted institution. Today Benjamin is generally acknowledged as the "Father of American Psychiatry". (to be concluded in next issue)

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Greenfield Hall

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